Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 17, lines 19-22, as follows:

Figure [[44]] **45** shows how a text field representing a social security number can be validated and displayed depicted in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Please amend the paragraph on page 88, lines 6-17, as follows:

Validation rules either use edit to convert from a transmittable string to the viewable format or use normalize to convert from a viewable format to a transmittable string. **Figure** [[44]] **45** shows how a text field representing a social security number can be put into visual form (e.g., 123-45-6789) by calling SocialSecurity.edit. Since a ValidationRuleException will be thrown if the conversion is unsuccessful, this call is embedded in a try statement with a catch for exception handling. In a comparable manner, **Figure 46** shows how the visual format for a social security number can be converted back to a transmittable format.